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webserver@yucca-web2.ymp.gov on 05/30/2004 07:22:49 PM

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May 30, 2004 19:22:49

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The Commentors Name:

---> Bron D Lucas

The Commentors Address:

---> [REDACTED]
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-->It is my understanding that cramming nuclear waste into the ground will solve nothing. The highly toxic and long-lived characteristics of these wastes will prove to be most troublesome some generations ahead, and I do not believe the option of Yucca Mountain should be considered because of seismic problems and the groundwater considerations that have been continually brushed aside by DOE bigwigs.

It would be unwise for this nation to spend money on a railway intended for the transport of large quantities of radioactive cargo headed for a future disaster zone. The effects of nuclear fallout from above-ground testing has been shown to have caused vast numbers of cancers, infant deaths, and birth defects, and yet the total quantities of all that careless megatonnage is in fact a fraction of the problem we face when dealing with the rear end of commercial nuclear power, let alone the military waste.

I am a firm believer in active isolation. Keep the waste above ground where it sits right now, and make every effort to keep the materials isolated from our ecosystem as responsibly as possible. Trying to transport this material by truck and rail is sure to invite accidents.

The nuclear industry is of course anxious to get rid of the stuff, as fuel rods have been packed into those storage pools at up to triple the originally rated capacity, and nuclear fanatics desperately want to save their dying cause. I do not consider it responsible or honorable for the United States government to continue to ignore the voice of reason and instead to make deals with self-serving energy industries.

I believe many problems would be solved if we centered our attention on the promise of renewable energies. I live right next to North Dakota, and as I'm sure you know there is considerable enthusiasm for the wind farms that have been growing there. We need to see a lot more of that, and our energy problems need to be more seriously contemplated.

Nuclear waste is an impossible engineering problem for anyone who wants to drop it down a hole in the ground. Out-of-sight is unfortunately not out-of-mind in this case, and radioactive materials will eventually leak no matter how much we hope that they won't.

I am troubled by the message DOE is sending by suggesting the Caliente corridor project. Yucca Mountain is not a solution.

Truly,

Bron Lucas

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